

WHEN YOU VISIT

Bodie State Historic Park is best visited during the summer. At other times the weather is unpredictable. Off-season visitors are cautioned to check at the Mono County Sheriff's office in Bridgeport for road and weather conditions before making the trip. Roads are often difficult; trailers are not advised. Over-snow equipment (snowmobiles, skis, snow shoes, etc.) may be required to reach the park during the winter months.

The Park is open year-round; 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the summer months, and 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. the rest of the year. An entrance fee is charged year-round.

For more information about Bodie SHP you may contact the park either by writing to:

BODIE STATE HISTORIC PARK
Post Office Box 515
Bridgeport, California 93517

or by calling the park directly at:
(619) 647-6445

PLEASE HELP US

- **DON'T TOUCH ANYTHING:** leave every rock and rusty can in place for our grandchildren to see.
- **WATCH OUT:** this is a real ghost town; splinters, nails and broken glass are everywhere.
- **DON'T SMOKE,** except in the parking lot.
- The Mill Area is hazardous; please stay out.
- Unless otherwise noted, all buildings are closed to the public.



Department of Parks & Recreation

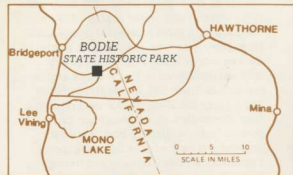
State of California - The Resources Agency
P.O. Box 942896 Sacramento, CA 94296-0836

GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN
Governor

GORDON K. VAN VLECK
Secretary for Resources

HENRY R. AGONIA
Director, Dept. of Parks and Recreation

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VICINITY MAP

The Friends of Bodie is a group dedicated to the preservation of the gold mining ghost town of Bodie. It is a chapter of the Tahoe-Sierra State Parks Association. This is a volunteer, non-profit organization which helps preserve and interpret state parks in the Sierra District of the State Department of Parks and Recreation.

In 1962 Bodie became a state historic park. This did not automatically insure all structures and artifacts would be properly preserved. Within the State Park System Bodie must compete with other parks for funding and priority projects. Likewise, the Department of Parks and Recreation must compete with all other state agencies for limited amounts of funding.

The Friends of Bodie can help raise funds and provide volunteer support to insure that Bodie is properly preserved.

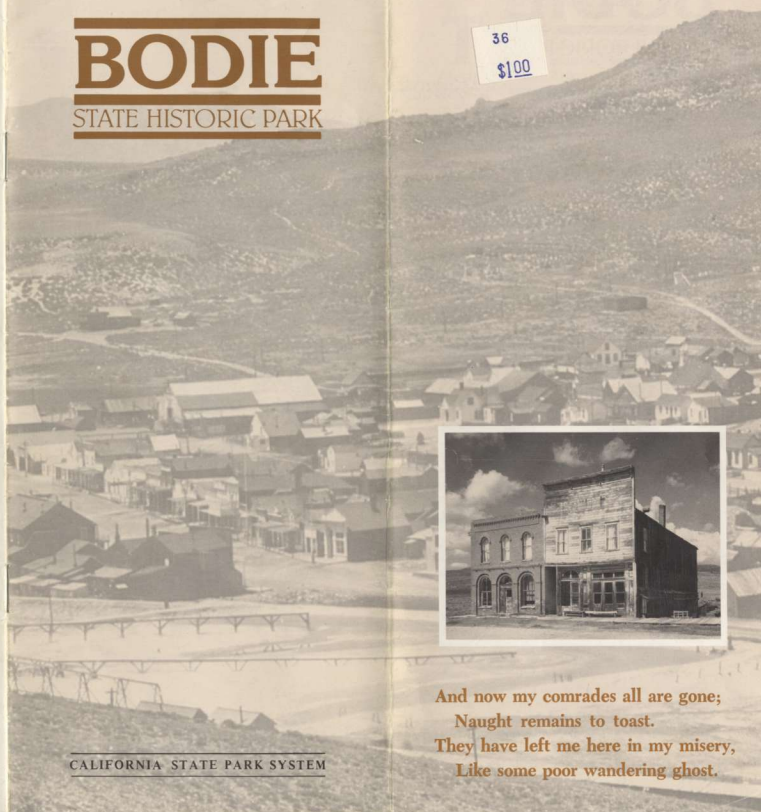
Financial support and volunteer workers are vital in preserving Bodie. Should you wish to participate in this effort please contact:

The Friends of Bodie
Post Office Box 515
Bridgeport, CA 93517



BODIE

STATE HISTORIC PARK



36
\$100

And now my comrades all are gone;
Naught remains to toast.
They have left me here in my misery,
Like some poor wandering ghost.

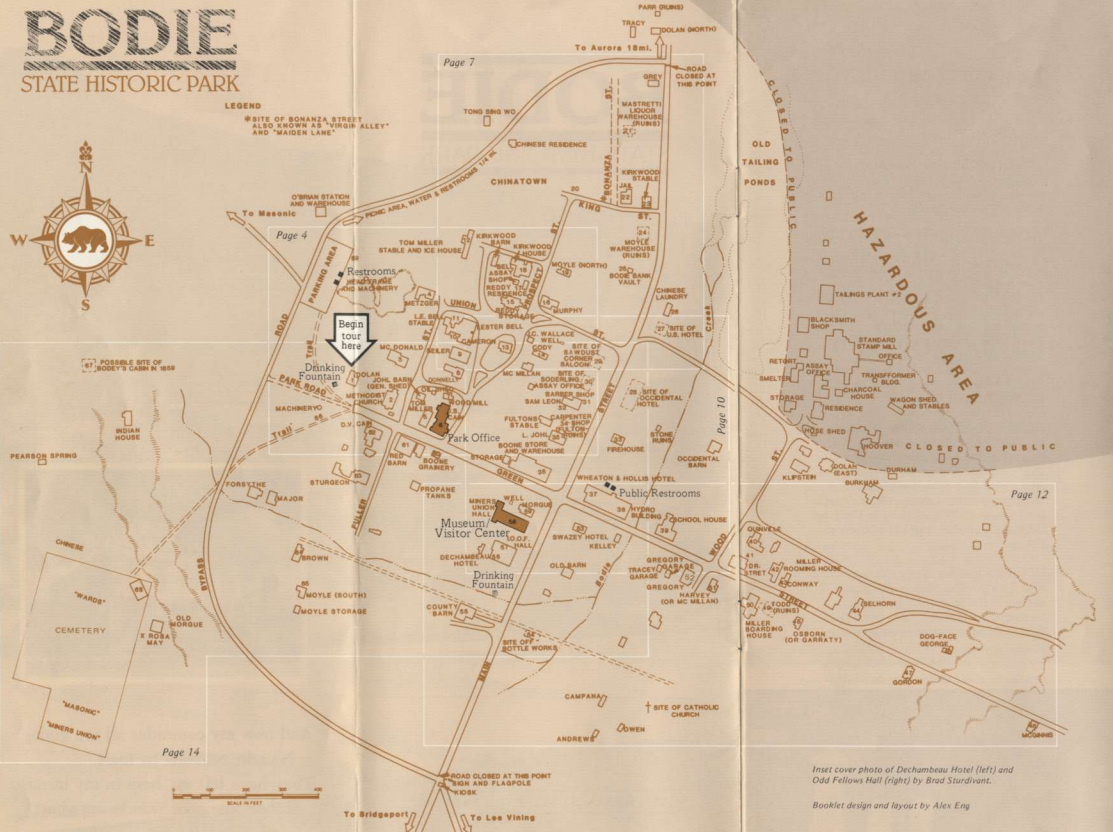
CALIFORNIA STATE PARK SYSTEM

BODIE

STATE HISTORIC PARK

LEGEND

• SITE OF BONANZA STREET
ALSO KNOWN AS "VIRGIN ALLEY"
AND "MAIDEN LANE"



WELCOME TO BODIE

This is Bodie – or rather the remains of Bodie. Only about five percent of the buildings it contained during its 1880 heyday still remain. Today, it stands just as time, fire, and the elements have left it – a genuine California gold-mining ghost town. Designated a state historic park in 1962, it is now maintained in a state of “arrested decay.”

Bodie was named after Waterman S. Body (also known as William S. Body) who discovered gold here in 1859. The change in spelling of the town’s name has often been attributed to an illiterate sign painter, but was a deliberate change by the citizenry to insure proper pronunciation.

The town of Bodie rose to prominence with the decline of mining along the western slope of the Sierra Nevada. Prospectors crossing the eastern slope in 1859 to “see the elephant” – that is, to search for gold – discovered what was to be the Comstock Lode at Virginia City, and started a wild rush to the surrounding high desert country.

By 1879 Bodie boasted a population of about ten thousand and was second to none for wickedness, badmen, and “the worst climate out of doors”. One little girl, whose family was taking her to the remote and infamous town, wrote in her diary: “Goodbye God, I’m going to Bodie.” The phrase came to be known throughout the west.

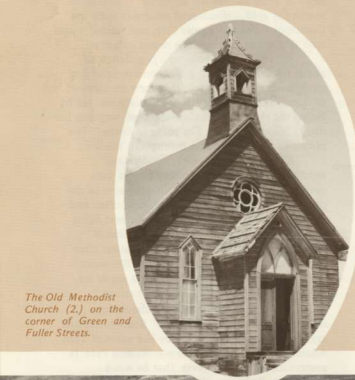
Killings occurred with monotonous regularity, sometimes becoming almost daily events. The fire bell, which tolled the ages of the deceased when they were buried, rang often and long. Robberies, stage holdups, and street fights provided variety, and the town’s 65 saloons offered many opportunities for relaxation after hard days of work in the mines. The Reverend F.M. Warrington saw it in 1881 as “a sea of sin, lashed by the tempests of lust and passion.”

Nearly everyone has heard about the infamous “Badman from Bodie.” Some historians say that he was a real person by the name of Tom Adams. Others say his name was Washoe Pete. It seems more likely, however, that he was a composite. Bad men, like bad whiskey and bad climate, were endemic to the area.

Whatever the case, the streets are quiet now. Bodie still has its wicked climate, but with the possible exception of an occasional ghostly visitor, its badmen are all in their graves.

Inset cover photo of Dechambeau Hotel (left) and Odd Fellows Hall (right) by Brad Sturdivant.

Booklet design and layout by Alex Eng



The Old Methodist Church (2.) on the corner of Green and Fuller Streets.

The following numbered paragraphs correspond to the numbered posts along the walk and to the numbers on the map.

1. **DOLAN HOUSE.** The Dolan family produced two Mono County Sheriffs around the turn of the century. Later this was the home of Frank McDonnell.
2. The old **METHODIST CHURCH** was erected in 1882. This is the only church still standing in Bodie, and the only Protestant church erected. E. J. Clinton of San Francisco restored the church and held the last service here in 1932. Since then, the interior has been badly vandalized, and the Ten Commandments painted on oilcloth which once hung behind the pulpit – (Thou shalt not steal) – has been stolen. The Catholic church on Wood Street, also built in 1882, burned down in 1928.
3. **MCDONALD HOUSE.** Dan McDonald was injured in 1879 when two tons of dynamite (then still a recent invention) blew up the old Standard works. The house was later owned by the Burkham family. S.B. Burkham operated a store on Main Street in the 1880s and 1890s, and his son, Cecil, ran the first automobile stage out of Bodie to Hawthorne in 1912.
4. **METZGER HOUSE.** Henry Metzger, born in New York in 1860, came to Bodie in 1878 to work in the Standard Mill and was its foreman when it closed down about 1916. Two of his seven children were born in this house.

View of Bodie from the Cemetery (68.) southwest of town.



3. **MILLER HOUSE** (open to the public). Tom Miller worked for the Mono Lake Railway & Lumber Co. (the former Bodie & Benton Railroad) at Mono Mills, south of Mono Lake. Much of the Jeffrey pine lumber used in the construction of Bodie came from Mono Mills.
 6. **A RESIDENCE OF JAMES STUART CAIN** who arrived in Bodie when he was 25, entered the lumber business, and put barges on Mono Lake to transport timber to the Bodie mines. He expanded into wagon freighting and, with Thomas Holt, leased the Bodie Railroad and Lumber Company. He and Joe Maguire leased a block of ground from the Standard Mine and Mill and took out \$90,000 in gold in 90 days. Standard would not renew the lease, but Cain eventually acquired the company through court action and became the town's principal property owner.
- Turn left at Park Street.
7. The small **SAWMILL** was used for cutting firewood. With snow as much as twenty feet deep, winds to a hundred miles an hour, and temperatures down to 30 or even 40 degrees below zero, it required plenty of firewood to keep Bodie's poorly constructed houses warm during the winter. The winter of 1878-1879 was especially severe, and Bodie residents, many of them newly arrived, were not adequately prepared. Many died of exposure, disease, or violence. Preparing for a Bodie winter was, and still is, a monumental task.
 8. **DONNELLY HOUSE**. Charlie Donnelly was a butcher who married English artist Annie Pagdin. Later this house was occupied by E.W. Billeb and his wife Dolly, daughter of James S. and Martha Cain. Mr. Billeb was the last superintendent and manager of the old Bodie and Benton Railroad (later the Mono Lake Railway & Lumber Company). The garden in front of his house was the only green spot in town; Hops grown there were said to be the only green plants that could survive in Bodie.

Turn left at Park Street.



The J.S. Cain Residence (6.) at the corner of Green and Park Streets.



*James S. and Martha Cain,
married in Carson City, Nevada,
September 17, 1879.*

View north along Park Street, with the Donnelly House (8.) in the foreground.

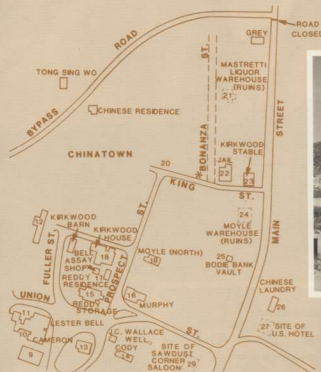


9. SEILER HOUSE. Seiler owned a saloon on the corner of Union and Main Streets.
10. CAMERON HOUSE, later a residence of Martha and James Stuart Cain.
11. HOUSE OF LESTER E. BELL, who was in charge of the cyanide plant built by Alex McCone and James Cain, then the largest such plant in the United States. The cyanide process of extracting gold was perfected in Bodie and enabled the working of otherwise worthless mine tailings for gold. Bell's son, Lester L. Bell, became an assayer for Bodie's mining companies.
12. TOM MILLER BARN AND ICE HOUSE.
13. MENDOCINI HOUSE was occupied by Annie Mendocini. Her father drove freight wagons from Aurora.
14. HOME OF M.J. CODY, U.S. Land Agent in 1885-86. His daughter Ella married David Victor Cain in 1904. Ella was a Bodie schoolteacher, and in the 1930s founded the Bodie Museum.
15. HOUSE OF PAT REDDY. Known throughout the West as an able criminal lawyer, the one armed Reddy built a considerable

reputation on his ability to defend the criminal element, union members, and the underdog in general.

16. MURPHY HOUSE.
17. BOB BELL'S MACHINE SHOP. Bob, son of Lester L. Bell, was born in Bodie and worked in its mines. In later years he helped stabilize and restore Bodie's buildings for the Department of Parks and Recreation.
18. HOME OF STUART KIRKWOOD, owner of the stables (site no. 23). This house was also occupied by E.L. Benedict, former manager of the Bodie Bank (site no. 25).
19. MOYLE HOUSE. The Moyle brothers had a business on Main Street.
20. CHINATOWN. Bodie's Chinese residents – at one time, several hundred of them – lived in this part of town and maintained their separate customs and traditions. Woodframe buildings (some built over stone cellars) lined the narrow central street. A town within a town, the Chinese quarter offered

Continue on Prospect Street and on down the hill to King Street and the site of Bodie's once-large Chinatown.



residents a full range of services including general stores, laundries, gambling halls, saloons, boarding houses, and even a Taoist temple. Opium parlors were open to Caucasian and Chinese alike. The main sources of income for the Chinese came from peddling vegetables, operating laundries, and cutting, hauling, and selling firewood.

Ahead of you are the sites of Bonanza Street, Maiden Lane, and Virgin Alley. The Beautiful Doll, Eleanor Dumont (alias Madame Mustache), Rosa May, Emma Goldsmith, Nellie Monroe, French Joe and other popular "ladies of the night" lived and worked here in a row of one-room cabins called "cribs."

21. MASTRETTI LIQUOR WAREHOUSE.
22. The TOWN JAIL may not look like much now, but it had its day. Only one prisoner is known to have escaped. Bail for "guests" was \$5. Joseph DeRoche was taken from here by the Bodie "601", a vigilante group, and hanged.

The Town Jail (22.) left; the Stuart Kirkwood Livery Stable (23.) in the right foreground.



23. The STUART KIRKWOOD LIVERY STABLE and blacksmith shop. In 1879-1880, the population of Bodie soared to about ten thousand inhabitants. To feed, clothe, and otherwise supply this active, hardworking population required many wagons and literally hundreds of horses, mules, and other draft animals to haul in tons of goods daily.

MAIN AND KING STREETS

From this point the road leads north through Bodie Creek Canyon and goes on seven miles to the California-Nevada border. It passes the Blanchard Toll House a couple of miles out of town. The junction with the road to Aurora, Nevada, where Mark Twain once lived while prospecting the Esmeralda outcroppings, is fourteen miles north of Bodie (make inquiries before attempting to travel over this road).

From here you can see the Standard Mine and Mill on the west slope of Bodie Bluff. Because the old mill buildings and surrounding area are extremely unsafe, they are closed to the public. The mine was known as the Bunker Hill Mine when it was registered in July 1861. It passed through several hands before being sold for



\$67,500 to four partners who changed the name and incorporated as the Standard Company in April 1877.

The Standard Mine yielded nearly \$15 million over 25 years, and its success caused the 1878 rush to Bodie. In a year the population rose from about twenty to an estimated ten thousand miners, gamblers, and other entrepreneurs. The Mill was destroyed by fire in 1898, but was rebuilt the following year. While the boom lasted, some thirty companies produced \$400,000 in bullion per month for an overall total estimated at \$90 to \$100 million.

The James S. Cain Company owned the Midnight Mine next to the Standard, and in 1915 it was proved in court that the management of the Standard Company had deliberately and fraudulently tapped the Midnight property. The damages awarded were so great that Cain took over the Standard property.

Hank Blanchard operated a lime kiln twelve miles from Bodie, in Mono Lake Basin about a mile and a half from the siding of the Bodie and Benton Railroad. Paiute Indians working at the kiln would haul the sacked lime to the siding and load it on flatcars for delivery at the Bodie terminal of the railroad, on the hill east of town;



(above) The Standard Mill, east of Bodie.

Mill workers standing on top of a well in front of the Standard Mill.

from there it was hauled to the Standard Company limehouse for use in milling and cyaniding gold and silver ores.

To the right of the mill was the residence of Theodore Hoover, brother of Herbert Hoover and general manager of the Standard Consolidated Mining Company. He later became director of the School of Mines at Stanford University.

Head down Main Street.

24. Remains of the MOYLE WAREHOUSE, one of the large stone warehouses constructed to store supplies for the long, cold Bodie winters. Some of the stone buildings were built into excavations blasted out of the hillside, and rooms or chambers were formed out of the rubble. This warehouse was built in 1879 behind the Gilson and Barber General Store.

25. This is the site of the BODIE BANK, which James S. Cain bought from E.L. Benedict in 1890. The bank escaped the fire of 1892 but was destroyed in that of 1932. All that you see here are the remains of the vault. It was robbed on September 1, 1916, by four men who got away with \$4,000 in money and jewelry.

The other bank which Bodie boasted during its boom days, the Mono County Bank, was organized in 1877 by Timothy Hopkins, adopted son of Mark Hopkins of "Big Four" and Central Pacific fame. It operated until 1884, when it closed with all accounts settled in full.

26. Across the street is the site of the MASONIC HALL. Bodie Lodge No. 252, F. & A. M., received its dispensation July 30, 1878, and its charter October 16, 1879, at which time there were 13 members. It reached its peak of 93 members in 1882 and passed from existence in 1918 when the remaining members voted to consolidate with Winnedumah Lodge No. 287 of Bishop. The building presently on this site was moved from Bonanza Street sometime after 1900. It was used as a laundry.

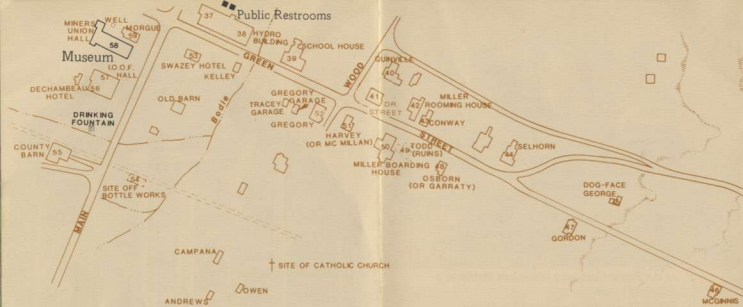
27. Site of the U.S. HOTEL.

Main Street, once a solid mile of one and two-story frame buildings, is well described by this quote from the Saga of Wells Fargo:

"At the high noon of its great days there were 30 mines in operation in Bodie, and the saloons, pothouses, restaurants, gin mills, ale stoops, and allied and adjacent deadfalls averaged, according to the advertising columns in the Bodie Standard, something better than one to a mineshaft. Having dined at Stewarts Hotel, the Arlington, the Bodie House, Browns or... the Occidental (Site No. 28), Grand Central or Windsor, the workman off duty was confronted by a bewildering choice of oases on which to lavish his patronage. He had his choice of Wagner's Corner, the Parole Saloon, the Rifle Club, the Cabinet, the Senate, the Commercial, the Champion, Peters and Aldrises, the Gymnasium, Mark's Saloon, the Sawdust Corner (Site No. 29), or the Bonanza. At all of these, the products of the town's three breweries - the Bodie, the Pioneer, the Pat Fahey's - were the favored chasers.

"... There was almost sure to be a company of East Lynne or Ten Nights in a Bar Room, both prime favorites, performing at the Miner's Union Hall. And, after the show, at an hour when life was really in order, the prudent reveler could save his final and best thirst of the evening to be dissipated at one or both of the town's ranking resorts of quality and fashion: The Maison Doree Restaurant, where the best quail in aspic in





39. The **SCHOOLHOUSE** building, built in 1879, was originally the **Bon Ton Lodging House**. The first school, located two blocks up the street, was burned down by an early-day juvenile delinquent. Belle Moore, wife of Ben Butler, was Bodie's first schoolteacher.

40. **QUINVILLE HOUSE**.

41. **DR. STREET'S HOUSE**.

42. **MILLER ROOMING HOUSE**. Mrs. Miller also had the boarding house across the street, site no. 50.

43. **CONWAY HOUSE**. In the 1880s the Conways ran freight wagons between Bodie and Carson City, Nevada, the nearest railhead. With loaded wagons it was an eight to ten day round trip. Bob Conway was one of the few residents left in Bodie after the outbreak of World War II.

44. **SELHORN HOUSE**.

45. **DOG FACE GEORGE'S HOUSE**.

46. **McINNIS HOUSE**.

47. **GORDON HOUSE**.

48. **GARRATY HOUSE**.

49. The **JIM TODD HOUSE** collapsed during the winter of 1973-74.

50. **MRS. MILLER'S (other) BOARDING HOUSE**.

51. **McMILLAN HOUSE**. A.E. McMillan was secretary of the Bodie Miners' Union in 1885. His son Dan was a one-armed sheriff, and manager of the Bodie baseball team after the turn of the century.



Bodie baseball team.



View north along Main Street. Dechambeau Hotel and Post Office.

I.O.O.F. Hall.

Bodie Miners' Union Hall.

Undertaker.

52. **GREGORY HOUSE**. Nathan Gregory operated a cattle ranch between Bodie and Aurora before 1900. His son Spence, one of Bodie's last residents, lived here for years as a retired mining engineer.

Return to Main Street and turn left.

53. The **SWAZEY HOTEL** also housed at various times a clothing store and a casino.

54. Site of **BOTTLE WORKS**, operated by the Moyle family.

55. **COUNTY BARN**. Last used to store county road maintenance equipment.

56. The **POSTOFFICE** moved here in 1879 from Silas Smith's store on northeast Main Street where it had been located since 1877. This building was erected by Postmaster George Putnam. It served as Grandma Johnson's rooming house and later as the Dechambeau Hotel. To the south stood a large foundry where the cannon in front of the Mono County Courthouse in Bridgeport was cast. Further south stood a warehouse, a brewery, the Silver Hill Mine, the South End Cyanide Plant, and a large hospital on the slope towards the cemeteries.

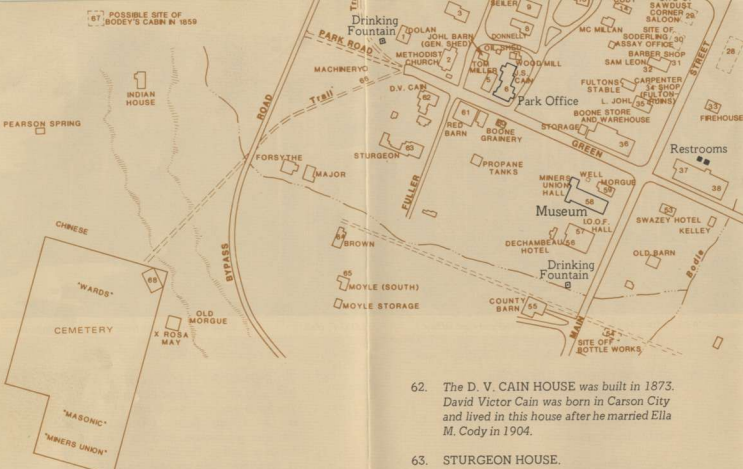
57. The Bodie **ODD FELLOWS LODGE**, No. 279, used the upper floor of this building. The lodge was instituted March 11, 1878 by the Grand Master Brother Charles H. Rendell and later consolidated with the Bishop Creek Lodge at Bishop. The first floor was used by H. Ward, who built the building in 1880 for his undertaking business. It was also used by the Bodie Athletic Club.

58. The **MINERS' UNION HALL**, built in 1878, was an important place in the social life of Bodie. The annual Fourth of July Grand Ball, the elegant masquerade ball on Washington's Birthday (when it invariably snowed), and Christmas party for young and old were held here. The Miners' Union Local 61, Western Federation of Miners, was organized December 22, 1877, and was one of the first organized unions in California. The building now houses a museum.

59. This building was last used as a **MORGUE**. Note the caskets inside.

Turn left, up Green Street.

67. POSSIBLE SITE OF BODEY'S CABIN IN 1859



In the field to your left there was once a blacksmith shop and a barn large enough to accommodate a hundred horses. A big scaffold, normally used for raising wagons and setting large iron wagon tires, was taken from this shop to the intersection of Main and Lowe Streets and used for the lynching of Joseph DeRoche, who reportedly murdered Johnny Treloar. An investigation into DeRoche's death was made, and the justice of the peace's record states, "Case dismissed, as the defendant was taken out and hanged by a mob."

60. SADDLE ROOM.

61. This old red BARN is typical of the large barns once used throughout Bodie.

62. The D. V. CAIN HOUSE was built in 1873. David Victor Cain was born in Carson City and lived in this house after he married Ella M. Cody in 1904.

63. STURGEON HOUSE.

64. BROWN HOUSE. William L. Brown worked for the Treadwell-Yukon mining company around 1930 for \$1.00 per day. In the boom times of the nineteenth century, when the Bodie Miners' Union was active, miners' pay had been \$4.00 per day.

65. MOYLE HOUSE. The Moyle brothers had a store on north Main Street. Later George Moyle, a member of Bodie's baseball team, operated a bottling plant on south Main.

Return to Green Street

66. The MACHINERY in the field west of the D.V. Cain House belonged either to the Bodie hydro-power plant, once located 13 miles west on Green Creek, or to a sister plant just to the south on Mill Creek. The remains of one of the world's first long-distance power facilities include a generator and a Pelton wheel.

67. Ahead (west) is PEARSON SPRINGS, once known as Taylor Gulch. This may have been the site of the cabin in which W.S. Body was living when he discovered gold in 1859 in company with three prospector companions. More likely, however, Body's cabin was on the east side of Bodie Bluff where placer gold was discovered in Taylor Gulch on the east side of Silver Hill. In late November of 1859, Body and Black Taylor were returning from Monoville with supplies when they became lost in a blizzard. Body's strength gave out and he died. The following spring Taylor found Body's remains and buried them. They were later reburied in the Masonic Cemetery. Later, during the boom years, this spot was renamed for the Pearson brothers, who bottled soda water here.

68. To your left across the sagebrush are WARD'S CEMETERY, the MASONIC CEMETERY, the MINERS' UNION CEMETERY, and the CHINESE CEMETERY. Only those accepted as respectable were buried inside the fences. Others were buried in "Boot Hill" outside the fences, and in most cases without markers. Waterman S. Body, the founder of the town, is buried without the gravestone that was carved for him. . . but that's another story! Body finally received recognition on October 5, 1957, when a large granite block was placed on his grave with a plaque dedicated by E. Clampus Vitus.

69. The large wooden structure east of the parking lot is called a HEAD FRAME. (although it is sometimes referred to as a "gallows frame"). It was the headframe for the hoisting works of the Red Cloud Mine and formerly stood over the ridge southeast of town. Beneath it are the Red Cloud's steam hoist and air compressor.

This completes your walk through Old Bodie. We hope you have enjoyed your visit!

PUBLIC RESTROOMS are located between the gallows frame and the parking lot.

The road uphill to the northwest is the old Geiger Grade to Masonic and Bridgeport. Make inquiries before attempting to travel this road.



The Post Office (in the Reading Store) March 1911.



Two unidentified miners pose by their 'dig'.



Stage coaches drawn up in front of the Grand Central Hotel on Main Street in 1880.